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Re Amet A

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of :  
:  
Robert E. Pollin :  
:  
Group Art Unit: UNASSIGNED  
:  
Serial No.: Filed Herewith :  
:  
Examiner: UNASSIGNED  
:  
Filed: January 25, 2000 :  
:  
For: AUTOMATED PAYMENT SYSTEM

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Honorable Assistant Commissioner  
for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to substantive examination on the merits, please enter the following Preliminary Amendment.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, line 3, before "A Portion of" insert --This application claims the benefit of U.S. patent application Serial No. 08,879,022 filed June 19, 1997, the entire disclosure of which, including references and appendices, is incorporated herein by reference.--

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Amend the claims as follows:

Cancel all pending and insert therefore new claim 1 as follows:

(New) An automated system for generating a plurality of authorized drafts on financial accounts belonging to a plurality of payers, in payment of debts to a payee, comprising:

2.1.26 26 X

A1